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Bay of Pigs Still Seems Just Stupid

Last week I tuned in NBC's "White Paper on Cuba: The Bay of Pigs." Now at last, I thought, here is the whole story.

One can never tell, of course, if it really was the whole story, but the thing should give even the most cockeyed optimist pause. The commentary, given with the usual deadpan, certainly made the C.I.A. look naive, the brass rather stupid and the Cuban rebels just plain double-crossed.

Why, for instance, wasn't proper air cover provided. The C.I.A. and the military had agreed no amphibious landing could be successful without it. And how about the flimsy excuse made by the C.I.A. for keeping Cuban exile leaders under house arrest? Something to do with security, they said.

They should check on their own security for it looks like Castro knew all about the plan well in advance. And why did the U.S. Navy have a carrier stationed a few miles off the beach if it had no intention of helping the invading force?

A force, by the way, with only rifles, carbines and some automatic weapons. They had no tanks; Castro did; and no anti-tank guns and not even enough food to last the 72 hours it was supposed to take to secure the beachhead.

But, what the heck! If no one else seems to care, why should we. And, didn't we look great in the Winter Olympics?

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW